

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7018

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: PRESIDENT EYADEMA USES RPT FOURTH ANNIVERSARY AND
INAUGURATION OF UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TO RAP SUPERPOWERS

1. TOGO'S LEADERSHIP CHOSE TO CELEBRATE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF
FORMATION OF UNIQUE POLITICAL PARTY, RASSEMBLEMENT DU PEUPLE
TOGOLAIS (RPT), BY DAY-LONG CELEBRATION 29 NOVEMBER FEATURING
"INAUGURATION" OF UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, WHICH ACTUALLY OPENED ITS
DOORS IN 1970. IN PRESENCE OF VISITING UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS,
INCLUDING TEXAS TECH VICE-PRESIDENT S.M. KENNEDY, SOME 3,000
RPT MILITANTS AND STUDENTS FILLED VAST RPT HALL IN MORNING
WITH REHEARSED RESPONSES AND ORGANIZED ENTHUSIASMS REMINISCENT,
ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR KENNEDY AND SOME OTHER OBSERVERS, OF
A NUREMBERG RALLY. THUNDEROUS SHOUTS OF "NON" GREETED SUCH
WORDS AS COLONIALISM, ZIONISM, WHILE MASSIVE CRIES
OF 'OUI' WERE ROARED BACK AT MENTION OF NAME EYADEMA, UNITY, AND
RPT.

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2. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH STRUCK OBSERVERS AS TWO VERY DIFFERENT

SPEECHES. FIRST HALF, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY UNIVERSITY'S URBANE AND INTELLECTUAL RECTOR, DR GABRIEL JOHNSON, WAS TEMPERATE AND FULL OF GRACIOUS PRAISE FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD HELPED TOGO BUILD ITS UNIVERSITY. FRANCE, WHOSE JACQUES FOCCART WAS CLEARLY ACCORDED PLACE OF HIGHEST HONOR AMONG GUESTS, WAS JUSTLY SINGLED OUT FOR GREATEST PRAISE, WITH GERMANY IN SECOND PLACE, AND "THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, WHO HAVE AIDED IN EQUIPPING OUR YOUNG UNIVERSITY, (ARE) ASSURED ON THIS MEMORABLE DAY OF OUR APPRECIATION." (THIS IS GRATIFYING AND EVEN SURPRISING, SINCE AS FAR AS I KNOW OUR ONLY ASSISTANCE TO UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN WESTINGHOUSE'S GIFT OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, THE PAO'S PROVISION OF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF BOOKS, A CU-FUNDED BIOLOGY TEACHER FOR THREE MONTHS, AND PEACE CORPS' PROVISION OF TOTAL THUS FAR OF THREE ENGLISH TEACHERS. FRANCE, OF COURSE, HAS PROVIDED FUNDS ON GRANT BASIS FOR MOST OF UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION.)

3. SECOND HALF OF SPEECH BEGAN WITH BOAST THAT TOGO HAD, WITHOUT SUBORDINATING ITS DECISION TO PRIOR AGREEMENT OF ANY COUNTRY, HOWEVER POWERFUL, RECOGNIZED POPULAR CHINA, NORTH KOREA, AND GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE SIHANOUK. SIMILARLY TOGO HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, PRESIDENT SAID, LINKING LATTER'S ARROGANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM, WHICH, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, REMAINED SOURCE OF NUMEROUS EVILS FROM WHICH PLANET SUFFERS. TOGO FOLLOWED WITH BITTERNESS EVOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI WAR WHICH WOULD NOT END IN TRUE PEACE UNLESS TWO SUPERPOWERS WISHED IT. IF, PRESIDENT ADDED, SUPERPOWERS KEPT ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT GOING, AS WELL AS WAR IN GENERAL, IT WAS TO PERMIT THEIR ARMS FACTORIES TO RUN AT FULL SPEED, TO TEST THEIR NEW INVENTIONS, AND EXPERIMENT WITH THEIR NEW WAR MATERIALS, IN ORDER THUS TO CREATE MARKETS FOR THEM AND ASSURE THEIR HOLD ON ECONOMIC RICHES OF THIRD WORLD. SUPERPOWERS ALWAYS CHOSE OTHER COUNTRIES THAN THEIR OWN FOR THEIR DEADLY EXPERIMENTS. YESTERDAY IT HAD BEEN KOREA, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. TODAY IT WAS NEAR EAST AND PART OF AFRICA. LEADERS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST CLOSE THEIR RANKS AND IN AFRICA WORK WITHIN OAU TO SUPPORT AFRICANS UNDER FOREIGN DOMINATION.

4. IF DR JOHNSON COULD HAVE WRITTEN FIRST HALF OF SPEECH, SECOND HALF COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN WORK OF RPT SEC GEN AND MIN INFO MICHEL
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EKLO WHO SAT NEAR PRESIDENT, JOYFULLY AND OPENLY LEADING MILITANTS' ORGANIZED RESPONSES TO PRESIDENT'S SALLIES. THIS WAS LOST ON NONE OF AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING RUSSIAN WHO SAT ON HIS HANDS THROUGHOUT SPEECH AND MADE CAUSTIC REMARKS ABOUT ORGANIZED CHEERING. ALTHOUGH FRENCH CAME OFF MUCH BETTER THAN WE AND RUSSIANS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR, PERHAPS PARTICULARLY BECAUSE FOCCART WAS PRESENT, EXPRESSED EXTREME DISPLEASURE OVER INJECTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS INTO WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN DAY

OF CELEBRATION OF CREATION OF UNIVERSITY, WHICH WOULD HAVE NOT BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT AID OF FRANCE.

5. AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED TO VISIT BY PRESIDENT, GUESTS AND ALL LOME PERSONAGES TO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHERE MODEST BUT UTILITARIAN BUILDINGS WERE DISPLAYED WITH GREAT PRIDE. VISIT WAS TURNED INTO ANOTHER MASS RALLY, WITH SAME 2,000-3,000 MILITANTS SINGING AND DANCING PRAISE OF "FATHER OF NATION." IN RETURN PRESIDENT PRESENTED UNIVERSITY AS HIS GIFT TO PEOPLE OF TOGO.

6. COMMENT: WHILE PRESIDENT'S UNCALLED FOR REMARKS ABOUT SUPERPOWERS ARE DISCONCERTING, I DOUBT HE TAKES THEM VERY SERIOUSLY, HIMSELF. IN A FOLLOWING TEL I SHALL ATTEMPT TO PUT HIS PERFORMANCE IN A PROPER PERSPECTIVE.
DICKINSON

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